



HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN #4 August-September 2016

Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis



115,907

BENEFICIARIES REACHED PHC



3,400

CHILDREN IMMUNIZED



6,474

TRAUMA TREATED



4,659

BIRTH ATTENDED BY SBA

HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of return of Afghan refugees through UNHCR's organized repatriation is increasing significantly; 7,804 Afghans returned in the first six months of 2016 while almost 82,000 returned in July and August (UNHCR).
- WHO-supported trauma care unit (TCU) in the Kunduz Regional Hospital started receiving patients in late July
- Insecurity continues to pose challenges for healthcare providers and health centres—41 health facilities were forced to close in Nangarhar, Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan. This might affect an estimated 579,380 people in the provinces by depriving them from access to basic health services
- Health Cluster requests 7,730,400 USD in the humanitarian Flash Appeal to respond to the needs of an estimated 600,000 documented and undocumented returnees from Pakistan



47

TOTAL PARTNERS

13

PARTNERS REPORTED NON-BPHS ACTIVITIES



HEALTH FACILITIES

41

CLOSED BPHS HF's DUE TO INSECURITY

2

CLOSED HUMANITARIAN HF's DUE TO INSECURITY

579,380

POPULATION IMPACTED DUE TO CLOSED HF's



HEALTH SERVICES AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS

99

TOTAL DISEASE OUTBREAK ALERTS REPORTED AND INVESTIGATED

670

NUMBER OF TOTAL CASES DUE TO OUTBREAKS

122,381

OF BENEFICIARIES REACHED WITH BASIC HEALTH CARE THROUGH NON-BPHS FACILITIES



EMERGENCY MEDICAL STOCK AVAILABLE

113

IEHK BASIC UNIT KITS

6

IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT KITS

22

PNEUMONIA KITS A + B

21

TRAUMA KITS A + B

6

DIARRHEAL DISEASE KITS

187,000

OF BENEFICIARIES CAN BE COVERED BY AVAILABLE STOCK



FUNDING \$USD

40M

FUNDING REQUIRED

Distribution of Emergency Medical Stock:

Stock Details: due to the recent ongoing conflict and upcoming winter, WHO prepositioned 199 Pneumonia Kits A and 199 Pneumonia Kits B to PPHDs, implementer NGOs and WHO sub offices for emergency preparedness and response. A total of 139,300 direct beneficiaries can be covered with the distributed kits. Additionally, loose medicines, including antibiotics, have been distributed to cover 6,980 beneficiaries. In total, 146,280 individuals will be covered with the recent winterization distribution.

Emergency Medical Stock Items:

Trauma Kit A+B
Pneumonia Kit A+B
Diarrheal Disease Kit
IEHK Basic Unit
IEHK Supplementary unit



Health Cluster Response/Achievements

Afghanistan is under a protracted complex emergency situation and frequently hit by natural disasters causing significant loss of lives, livelihoods, infrastructure as well as reversion of developmental gains. Extreme climate and harsh geo-physical conditions, widespread poverty and underdevelopment, combined with on-going conflict, has resulted in high vulnerability and collapse of coping mechanisms. The conflict has intensified in 2016 with an increased number of casualties, displacement, violence against health service providers and closure of health facilities. In the first six months of 2016, 157,987 Afghans were newly displaced – a 10% increase over the same period in 2015. The estimated number of conflict-induced internally displaced Afghans is currently 1.2 million.

The extensive population movements (over 450,000 IDPs) in the country exacerbate the circumstances with significant numbers of IDPs, returnees and refugees congregating in urban centers and periphery where basic service provision and infrastructure is unable to absorb the additional burden.

The situation is expected to be further compounded with the return of over one million returnees from Pakistan by the end of 2016. That would not only impose extra burden on the already over-stretched health care system but it raises concerns about the influx of population with inadequate or no immunity against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

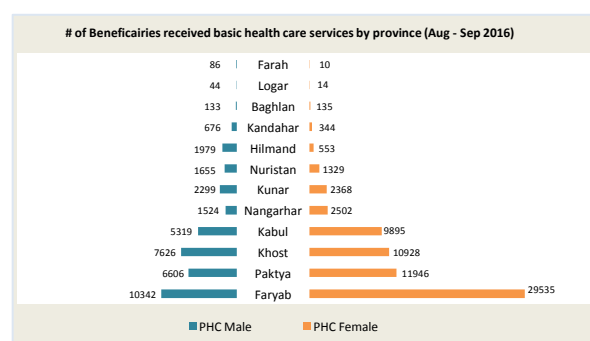
In view of the current distribution of the immunization coverage, access to health care services and the prevalence of war trauma throughout the country, 95 districts with a total population of over 4.5 million are ranked as very high and high priority districts. 50% (2,299,507) of the estimated people in the high and very high risk districts will be targeted through the humanitarian health care services (including PHC, outbreak response and trauma care) in 2017.

During the first 6 months of the year, over 30,000 cases of war trauma have been reported throughout the country and over one third of all these cases (10,983) are referred to and treated at major hospitals in Lashkargah of Helmand and Kabul. The number might reach 60,000 by the end of the year and similar numbers of war trauma cases are anticipated in 2017 as well.

The Health Cluster aims to improve access to critical life-saving interventions (including PFA) for most vulnerable affected people, including quality trauma care in view of increasing conflict and weapon wounded caseload, addressing public health risks with focus to outbreak of communicable diseases and ensuring optimal chain of supply of essential medicines and availability of emergency health kits in the under-served and conflict-affected areas to prevent avoidable morbidity, mortality, and disability.

Achievements:

- During first half year of 2016, Health Cluster partners continued to provide basic health care services for people living in white areas, affected by natural emergencies and IDPs in 29 provinces, covering 124 districts. A total of 305 health facilities were supported by Health Cluster partners.
- 70 First Aid Trauma Posts (FATP), including 48 stand alone and 22 integrated FATPs attached with BHCs and CHCs provided trauma care and stabilization for over 50,000 weapon-wounded patients (including minor and major surgeries).
- Mass casualty management plans developed for 23 provinces, simulation exercises conducted for 18 provinces with trainings for 71 surgeons, 165 medical doctors, 16 nursing officers, 43 blood bank technicians and 125 community health supervisors and 306 community health workers (CHWs)
- Around 1 million people benefited from the supply of Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), diarrhoea, pneumonia and trauma kits and miscellaneous medicines during 2015 and 2016
- Around 2.1 million people were served with basic health services provided through temporary sub-health centers and mobile clinics, benefiting from OPD, reproductive health, ante-natal care services, skilled birth assistance, postnatal care and neonatal services and vaccinations
- Operational support to a trauma hospital in Helmand enabled the staff to perform 3,545 major surgeries (including 335 children and 886 women) and treat 11,279 surgical cases (10% children and 25% women)
- Eight Provincial/Regional Hospitals in high-risk areas upgraded for specialized trauma care services (Trauma Care Units established) while six more are in the process of upgrading.
- 324 disease outbreaks were detected with 98% being investigated and responded to in a timely manner covering over 8,000 cases directly and 694,871 people served indirectly.
- Blood banks upgrading at the national level and 11 high risk provinces, including training of blood bank staff on safety standards.
- In 2016, 528 staff (102 women) from MoPH and health NGOs were trained on the prevention and control of communicable diseases, emergency preparedness and response, environmental health monitoring and water hygiene and sanitation in health facilities, trauma care and first aid
- The National All Hazard Emergency Response Plan for Health (NERPH) is developed, Command and Control Centers (CCC) established and the national Health Emergency Risk Assessment has been completed in 2016



With reference to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2016, Health Cluster Partners reached the following categories of beneficiaries: refugees and returnees, people living in underserved "white areas", population in conflict-affected areas and internally displaced persons.

Source: Health Cluster partners' monthly activity report outside of the EPHS/BPHS - health service provision to conflict-affected and natural disaster-affected population through humanitarian funds for emergency response.

Partners Reported activities in August & September 2016:



Health Cluster Partners' Updates

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Command and Control Centre (CCC) at the Ministry of Public Health has been functionalized with the support of WHO and staff has been hired
- WHO conducted two batches of trauma care training for 41 surgeons from 16 provinces
- Conducted assessments of Rabia-Balkhi, Khair Khana and Malalai hospitals in Kabul to identify urgent needs for WASH and Environmental Health to implement rehabilitation of water supply and medical waste management systems in facilities that may face an increase in the number of patients due to the current returnees/refugees situation
- A training on WASH in health facilities in Kandahar with the support of MoPH was organized by WHO, targeting 30 people, mainly from BPHS/EPHS implementers in 5 provinces
- WHO constructed a metallic structure in the Kapisa provincial hospital for triage of injured patients during mass casualties
- WHO distributed Mass Casualty Management (MCM) supplies to 18 high-risk conflict-affected provinces prone to mass casualties to improve the capacity of 22 hospital trauma care units. The MCM supplies included an IEHK supplementary module, first aid bags, triage box, stretchers, loose medicines and other loose items.



WHO supplies trauma kits to Nangarhar Regional Hospital to support mass casualty management



Returnees from Pakistan cross the border at Torkham to Afghanistan while polio vaccinators immunize children

UNFPA

- UNFPA supported partners in delivering reproductive health services through mobile health teams and public health facilities to 6,924 women in reproductive age for IDPs and refugees. 3,629 women received reproductive health services through seven mobile health teams run by ARCS and partially supported by UNFPA. The services were provided in Western, Central, Northeastern, Northern, Southern, Southeastern and Eastern regions.
- UNFPA provided emergency basic and obstetric care through the provision of emergency and reproductive health kits to five health facilities and two provincial hospitals in Khost and Nangarhar.
- 11,800 clean delivery kits distributed to pregnant women in white areas of 27 provinces.
- 55 Emergency RH kits are available; these kits will be used in hospitals and health centers to provide emergency reproductive health services to 600,000 people for three months.

Challenges:

- Escalating conflict in target areas as well as limited access to these areas for delivering reproductive health services.

- Absence of adequate funding for the provision of reproductive health services to the IPDs and returnees.

Youth Health & Development Organization (YHDO)

Youth Health and Development Organization (YHDO) is implementing a CHF-funded project in white areas in Kapisa province (Nijrab district) and Balkh province (Sholgara district). Trauma medical assistance has started in these areas. The centers are equipped with ambulances for referring critical patients to high level health facilities as required. In addition, 12 health care workers working in first aid trauma posts (FATPs) were recruited and trained on first aid trauma care in YHDO Kabul HQ. YHDO aims to provide effective trauma care for 9,906 direct beneficiaries in these provinces.



Child receiving first aid trauma care in Nijrab district of Kapisa FATP

Agency for Assistance and Development Afghanistan (AADA)

AADA activities in Faryab province:

- 57,589 beneficiaries received PHC services
- 502 beneficiaries received trauma care
- 429 children under 2 years received Penta 1 vaccination
- 221 children under 2 years received Penta 3 vaccination
- 737 assisted deliveries



PU-AMI

- Emergency and humanitarian projects are implemented to the conflict-affected population of Kunar and Nangarhar provinces through CHF and ECHO projects.
- Health needs, WASH and non-food items provided to IDPs and returnees in Nangarhar through a CHF project.
- Health services provided to the underserved and insecure areas of Kunar province through four HSCs under CHF project. During August a total of 4,786 people received health services, of which 1,890 were children. The project ended at the end of August 2016 and the mentioned health facilities are integrated into the BPHS.
- Emergency lifesaving services provided to the conflict-affected population of Kunar and Nangarhar by providing emergency drugs and equipment to all HFs of Kunar and 4 HFs of Nangarhar, through the ECHO project.



Emergency drugs in one of Kunar's health facilities provided by an ECHO project

- 485 trauma cases treated in Kunar province, 51 were stabilized and referred. 91 trauma cases treated in Nangarhar, 103 stabilized and referred to health facilities.
- 2 MHTs provided PHC services to conflict-affected IDPs of Kot and other districts of Nangarhar.
- From 1869 people who received health care, 803 were female, 304 male and 762 were children.

ORCD

- Provided health services to the victims of war in Baghlan Province.
- ORCD CHF project inaugurated in Laghman province.
- ORCD established trauma centers in Baghlan and Laghman provinces for the emergency war victims to support provincial hospitals to avoid emergency war victims' referrals.
- A coordination meeting held with community and community health workers (CHWs) to improve referral from the community to FATPs.
- ORCD held coordination meetings with the community, PPHD and partner NGOs (Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee meeting, Provincial Public Health Coordination (PHCC) meeting and NGO coordination meeting).



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See also the Health Cluster [website](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/health): <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/health>

